

10/824,899

99RE059A/ALBRP133USA

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A listing of pending claims and associated status identifiers is found at pages 3-9. Claims 19-25 and 32-41 are allowed. Claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 27, and 28 have been cancelled herein, and claims 1, 9, and 26 have been amended to include allowable subject matter of these cancelled claims. In addition, claims 6, 7, and 15 have been amended to cure minor informalities, and claims 18, 25, 31, and 26 have also been amended herein.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 6, 7, and 15-17 stand as being objected to due to minor informalities cited by the Examiner. Claims 6, 7, and 15 have been amended herein to cure such informalities. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 8-11, 13, 18, 26, and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 13, 18, 26, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hott, P.W., *et al* ("Development of a Pumping System Decision Support Tool Based on Artificial Intelligence", Tools with Artificial Intelligence, 1996"). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Independent claims 1, 9, and 26 have been amended herein to include allowable subject matter of objected-to claims 4, 12, and 28, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1, 9, and 26 (and all pending claims dependent therefrom) are believed to be in condition for allowance, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

10/824,89999RE059A/ALBRP133USACONCLUSION

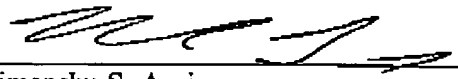
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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